

Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendance: First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

1- Call to order: First Selectman Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

2- Pledge of Allegiance: Police Commissioner Bill Brady led in the Pledge.

3- Board of Selectmen review First Selectman's 2019-20 Budget Request

First Selectman Spaulding made a PowerPoint presentation, which is available on the Town Website. The presentation focuses on our local economic situation, our grand list, our expenditures and our revenues. He explained that the cost drivers associated with a Board of Selectmen operating budget increase of 3.3% are insurance costs, retirement costs and the new School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Middle School. First Selectman Spaulding said Town Debt is going down through 2023/24. He reported an increase to the mill rate of 3.5% if there was no property revaluation.

The Board of Selectmen then reviewed the budget by department with the following comments of note:

Tree Warden: Mr. Luiz stated the Mr. Lomas has successfully worked with Eversource in the past year. He said that the proposed increase in the budget is to cover the removal of damaged ash trees not covered by Eversource.

General Administration: Contractual Services, unemployment and pension costs are up, electricity is down due to Virtual Net Metering (VNM).

Information Systems: We currently receive IT services from the BOE, but will be using a new company next year and will need to replace equipment.

Elections/Registrars: increase in budget due to anticipated presidential primaries.

Tax Collection: increase in budget due to shifting of printing costs from the IT and shifting of general supplies from the General Administration budget.

Town Clerk: increase in budget due to increase in budget due to shifting of printing costs from the IT and shifting of general supplies from the General Administration budget.

Land Use Department: increase in budget due to increase in legal notice costs increasing and the shifting of general supplies from the General Administration budget.

Volunteer Fire Department: increase in budget due to Narcan costs and increases in price of annual medical exams.

Communications Center: Increase in budget due to overtime costs that will now match historic trend as well as wage increases.

Police Services: Increase in budget due to additional SRO costs.

Public Works: Highway: Decreases in budget due to summer part time help being reduced from 3 employees to 2, decreases in drainage costs (related to MS4 permitting) and decrease in electricity (due to Virtual Net Metering). Increases in the budget are due to training and resurfacing roads.

Solid Waste Disposal: Reduction in budget due to proposed reduction in days/hours of operation of transfer station, proposed increase of garbage stickers from \$1.50 to \$2.50. Reduction in hours/days due to significant annual operating losses and decrease of neighborhood haulers using our facility.

Westport/Weston Health District: the Board discussed looking to see if other towns want to share our health district, regionalize services.

Weston Water Utility: budget increase due to planned repair work.

School/Town Water Supply: budget increase due to planned repair work.

Human Services: reduction in budget due to trend of reduced spending on Meals on Wheels.

Youth Services: the board noted that program revenues are very good.

Public Library: board mentioned the increased usage of the library. There is a increase in books and materials expenditures so that Weston can get somewhat closer to what area libraries budget for books and materials.

Recreational Department: Bisceglie pond loses between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year – so the budget proposes a \$25 family fee for the summer.

Parks & Fields: increase in budget due to field maintenance.

Debt Service- decrease in budget due to refunding.

Selectman Grozinger stated he doesn't think this budget could be cut anymore. Regionalization of services was discussed, but First Selectman Spaulding stated there could be issues with collective bargaining units and state law.

First Selectman Spaulding said he will be reviewing all large capital items.

Selectman Grozinger moved to refer the proposed First Selectman's budget as presented with the price adjustment of the garbage stickers to \$2.50, to the Board of Finance. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4- Adjourn:** Selectman Nestor moved to adjourn at 10:08pm, Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved: February 21, 2019